

MASSACHUSETTS FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARD AFFIDAVIT

A Massachusetts sportfishing award pin will be issued to qualified anglers who catch and report a freshwater fish which equals or exceeds the minimum weight for the species listed on the reverse side of this form, provided any such angler has conformed to the rules of the program. Those catching the largest fish in each category during each calendar year will be recognized at an annual award ceremony.



**ALL items on this form MUST be filled out.
Please Print Clearly**

Angler's Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Address: _____
(number & street / box number)

(town, state & zip code)

Phone: () _____ **E-mail:** _____
area code

Fish Species: _____ **Weight:** _____ **lbs.** _____ **ozs.**

Fish Length: _____ **Girth:** _____ **Date of Catch:** _____

Type of Tackle: _____ **Bait/Lure:** _____

Where Caught: _____
(name of waterbody) (city / town of waterbody)

I hereby swear, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that the above statements are true, that this entry complies with all rules on the reverse side, that this fish was caught in a legal manner in Massachusetts, and that the witness hereto actually witnessed the weighing and measuring of the fish.

Angler's Signature: _____

Fishing/Sporting License Number: _____

Witness Signature and Date: _____ **Phone:** () _____

Witness Name (Printed): _____

Name & Address Where Fish Was Weighed: _____

Phone Number Where Fish Was Weighed: _____

Scale Certification Seal Date (Month & Year): _____

Comments on the Catch (optional): _____

Award Program Rules and Eligibility

1. All anglers are eligible for the Massachusetts Freshwater Sportfishing Awards. Anglers 15 years or older must have a valid Massachusetts fishing or sporting license at the time of the catch to be eligible for sportfishing awards.
2. Anglers aged 17 or under are eligible for Youth Sportfishing Awards (see minimum weights below). Youth 15 to 17 years of age, inclusive, must have a minor's fishing license.
3. Fish must be taken from waters within the state of Massachusetts (or the interstate ponds listed in the Abstracts of the Fish & Wildlife Laws) **that are open to the public.**
4. Fish taken from waters which are not open to the public at all times (such as private ponds or fish and game club ponds) are NOT eligible for awards. This rule does not apply to the Wachusett or Quabbin Reservoirs, or other public bodies of water which are closed on a seasonal basis.
5. Fish must be caught on hook and line, except carp, which may also be taken with spears or bow and arrow.
6. Fish must be weighed on a scale certified by the Massachusetts Division of Standards or a town official, and the weighing must be witnessed by a second party.
7. A clear, side view, close-up photograph of the fish must be included with all affidavits. All photographs become the property of the MDFW. In addition to a side view photo, all affidavits for catfish and bullheads must also include a close-up, side view photo of the tail. Catfish should be kept frozen whole until its identification is confirmed in writing by the MDFW.
8. Due to the similarities between brown trout and broodstock salmon, all brown trout must be presented in their entirety (whole) to qualified fisheries personnel at MDFW Field Headquarters in Westborough or at any of the five MDFW District offices (as listed in the Abstracts of the Fish & Wildlife Laws).
9. All potential state record fish must be presented in their entirety (whole) to qualified fisheries personnel at MDFW Field Headquarters in Westborough or at any of the five MDFW District offices.
10. Completed affidavits and photos must be received by MDFW within 30 days of the date of the catch.
Note: December affidavits must be postmarked no later than January 10th of the following year.
11. It is the angler's responsibility to provide the MDFW with completed affidavits and required photos.
12. MDFW reserves the right to change or modify the Freshwater Sportfishing Award Program rules at any time. All decisions of MDFW are final.

MINIMUM WEIGHTS TO QUALIFY FOR AN AWARD

	Adult	Youth		Adult	Youth
Brook Trout	2 lbs. 0 ozs.	1 lbs. 0 ozs.	Northern Pike	15 lbs. 0 ozs.	10 lbs. 0 ozs.
Broodstock Salmon	10 lbs. 0 ozs.	5 lbs. 0 ozs.	Rainbow Trout	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 8 ozs.
Brown Trout	5 lbs. 0 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.	Shad	5 lbs. 0 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Bullhead	2 lbs. 0 ozs.	1 lbs. 0 ozs.	Smallmouth Bass	4 lbs. 8 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Carp	15 lbs. 0 ozs.	10 lbs. 0 ozs.	Sunfish**	0 lb. 12 ozs.	0 lb. 8 ozs.
Chain Pickerel	4 lbs. 8 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.	Tiger Muskellunge	10 lbs. 0 ozs.	7 lbs. 0 ozs.
Channel Catfish	6 lbs. 0 ozs.	5 lbs. 0 ozs.	Tiger Trout	2 lbs. 0 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Crappie/Calico	1 lb. 8 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.	Walleye	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 0 ozs.
Lake Trout	7 lbs. 0 ozs.	5 lbs. 0 ozs.	White Catfish	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 0 ozs.
Landlocked Salmon*	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.	White Perch	1 lb. 8 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Largemouth Bass	7 lbs. 0 ozs.	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	Yellow Perch	1 lb. 8 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.

* Landlocked Salmon are recognized only from Quabbin & Wachusett Reservoirs.

** Sunfish category includes bluegills, pumpkinseeds and rock bass.

**If there is ANY question concerning the identification of the species,
the fish should be presented in its entirety to an MDFW office.**

Questions? Call us at 508-792-7270 any
weekday from 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. or visit
www.mass.gov/wildlife

Send completed affidavits and photos to:

**Sportfishing Awards Program
MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581**